



## Wyckoff Police Department PRESS RELEASE

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**TO: ALL NEWS MEDIA**  
**FROM: Chief David Murphy**  
**DATE: April 19, 2017**  
**CONTACT: Chief David Murphy**

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### **For Immediate Release:**

On March 22, at 10:20 pm, Sergeant Michael DeMaio took a shoplifting report from the loss prevention officer of The Stop and Shop Store, 327 Franklin Avenue. It appears that a male actor had placed several health and beauty items into a shopping basket and then fled the store without making payment. The matter has been referred to the detective bureau.

On April 8, at 3:50pm, Officer John Rafferty was conducting a distracted driver detail on State Highway Route 208, when he observed a vehicle driving erratically in front of him. Officer Rafferty stopped the vehicle and the subsequent investigation led to the arrest of Kreshnik Hoxha, Lodi, age 23. Mr. Hoxha was charged with possession of marijuana, failure to use signal and failure to observe traffic lanes. He was processed, released and is scheduled to appear in court. Detective Sergeant Joseph Soto, Officer Joseph Fullam and Officer Kaitlyn Maglione assisted.

On April 10, at 10:59am, Officer Kevin Pinches took a report from a vehicle owner who parked their car on Buena Vista Way, the evening prior. The vehicle owner reported that sometime while the vehicle was parked, the Thule bicycle rack was removed from the vehicle's trailer hitch. The matter has been referred to the detective bureau.

On April 11, at 3:19 am, Sergeant Michael DeMaio had taken an initial report involving a reported shoplifting that had occurred at the CVS Pharmacy Store, 303 Franklin Avenue. The matter was referred to the detective bureau for further investigation. Following the investigation, Detective Sergeant Michael Ragucci, was able to use the information provided to identify a suspect in the case. On April 13, he charged Christopher Gonzalez, Newark, age 35 with shoplifting. He is scheduled to appear in court.

On April 13, at 7:22pm, Sergeant Daniel Kellogg was dispatched to a residence to take a theft report. The investigation showed that a male actor had come to the residence to complete a "Craigslist" sale of a Kawasaki dirt bike. While test driving the dirt bike, the actor fled the area. Matter has been referred to the detective bureau.

On April 14, at 12:11pm, Sergeant Michael DeMaio responded to a business located at 681 Lawlins Road on a report of a theft. The investigation showed that sometime in the evening hours on the 13<sup>th</sup>, two decorative figurine goats were removed from the rear loading dock. Matter has been referred to the detective bureau.

On April 16, at 02:39am, Officer Michael Flim was patrolling State Highway Route 208, when he observed a vehicle in front of him bearing an expired vehicle registration as well as committing traffic violations. Officer Flim stopped the vehicle and the subsequent investigation led to the arrest of Christopher F Kogge, Oakland, age 29. He was charged with driving while intoxicated, reckless driving, unregistered vehicle and disregard of marked lanes. He was released to a family member and is scheduled to appear in court. Detective Sergeant Michael Ragucci and Officer Kaitlyn Maglione assisted.

The Wyckoff Police Department has seen an increase in residential burglary and attempted burglary reports during the months of March and April, primarily in the Sicomac section of town. Residents should be aware and make sure their home is properly secured when leaving. We have increased our patrols in both marked and unmarked vehicles positively increasing visibility in residential neighborhoods. We're doing everything possible to address this concern. In addition to the extra patrol details, our increased efforts include proactively notifying residents when we see opportunity for them to better secure their property, and conducting door-to-door canvasses after a burglary report to try to gain any information that may help in our investigations. We cannot stress enough the value of our residents remaining alert in their neighborhoods and reporting anything unusual or suspicious to the police, "Hear It! See It! Report It!" We encourage all residents to report any suspicious persons, vehicles, or activity occurring in their neighborhoods that may be related at any time to Wyckoff Police- County Dispatch (201)891-2121. Below are just a few prevention tip reminders.

### **Prevention Tips for Homes:**

- Keep your garage door closed and locked
- Keep shrubs and bushes trimmed in such a way that you can see through them and over them so burglars can't hide in the shadows; they should be cut below your windows and away from doors
- Make it time-consuming for a burglar to break into your home by installing deadbolts, double key lock and additional locks on all windows and patio doors
- Secure any sliding doors; make sure the lock is in working order; place a steel rod, broomstick, or dowel inside the door channel
- Do not leave your property unattended, such as bicycles, or lawn equipment outside of your home
- Make sure the interior and exterior of your house is well-lit at night to discourage burglars
- Keep records of serial numbers for valuables such as stereos, bicycles and sports equipment
- Purchase a home engraving kit to mark your property
- Make sure all windows and exterior doors are locked when leaving your home
- Consider a burglar alarm system; check with several different companies before you buy so you can decide what level of security fits your needs
- Instead of leaving a hidden key, give a key to a trusted neighbor or a nearby family member/friend

### **Prevention Tips for Vehicles:**

- Always lock your vehicle doors and take the keys with you when not in use, even in your driveway
- Do not leave vehicles running unoccupied
- Do not leave unattended personal belongings (phone, purse, wallet, electronics, etc) in plain sight inside your vehicle, no matter where it is parked
- Consider installing alarms and/or "kill switch" devices in vehicles
- When leaving your vehicle, remove GPS, Bluetooth, and other equipment from plain view and lock it in your trunk
- Do not leave mail in your vehicle with the address label visible

“The Wyckoff Police Department would like to point out that these individuals have been charged with a crime, offense, and/or motor vehicle violation. However, they are presumed innocent unless and until they are found guilty in a court of law.”